

# The Southwester

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## Proposed Ballpark Requires Master Plan Changes

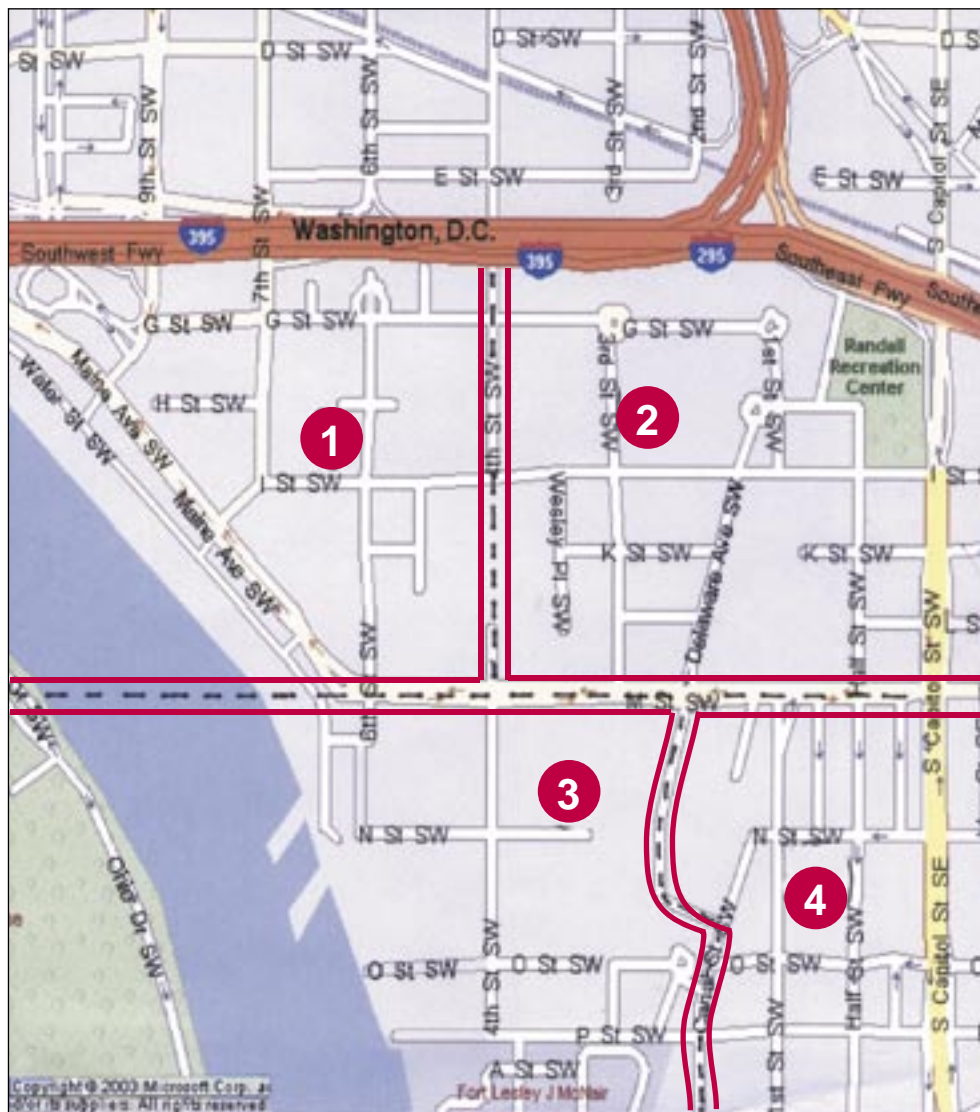
By Hugh Muir

The proposed stadium for the new Washington Nationals baseball team has forced some major changes in the original master plan for the redevelopment of part of the Anacostia Waterfront and South Capitol Street.

The largest changes will, of course, be on the east side of the thoroughfare, where the stadium has been sited. Public hearings on the new master plan are being conducted in February and March. David Howard of the D.C. Department of Planning said at a recent SWNA meeting that few buildings on the west side of South Capitol will be affected by the plan.

More will be learned at the upcoming SWNA meeting.

At right, Aerial photo from a few years ago showing housing in Southwest to the left of South Capitol St. with the site of the future baseball stadium marked in the middle. (Copyright Harold Flecknoe, The Airborne Camera)



Do you live in District 1, 2, 3 or 4?

## SWNA Candidates:

These are the candidates as of publication. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the SWNA meeting on February 28th. Elections will take place March 19th at Waterfront Mall from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

### President

**Marge Maceda** has been an active member of the SW community for many years. She was president of SWNA this past year, and served as a district representative for SWNA in 2001. She is a Special Education Coordinator at Van Ness Elementary School and has taught a class for welfare-to-work mothers. She has taught

*Continued on Page 4*

**SW Neighborhood Assembly,  
SWNA General Meeting  
Mon. February 28, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Matthew's, 3rd & M**

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## March Elections

New officers and board members of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly will be elected in elections on Saturday, March 19th at Waterside Mall, 401 M St. from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. SW Officers will be elected by all voters, district representatives are elected only by residents of the individual districts. Find your district on the map.



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*This is a paid ad by Maurice Boyd*

## Change in SWNA Meeting Agenda

**S**haron Ambrose and Andrew Altman, Anacostia Waterfront Innitiative requested to speak at the February 28 meeting. They plan to address the issues of the Baseball Stadium, Corcoran and the Arena Stage. It was decided to postpone our Black History meeting until March.

## The Southwester

P.O. Box 70131, Washington D C 20024

**Southwester Staff**

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Full page	\$550		

**Classified Ads—\$1 per word**

**Ad deadline Wed. March 2**

## Former SW Scholarship Recipients

By Carole Early

**E**very year for thirty years, the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, SWNA, has raised money for scholarships. Yes, this is the anniversary year. These have been awarded to high school students who plan to attend college in the fall. The Scholarship Committee oversees this project.

Ever wonder what our former recipients are doing? Wonder no more...here is an update.

We spoke with Chekesha Rashad, a 1994 scholarship recipient. She graduated from Grambling State University with a degree in public relations and went on to receive a Master's degree in sports marketing from Georgia State University. With that under her belt, she has focused her career in the sports and special events industries. She has worked for Nike, the NBA Atlanta Hawks, and the Georgia Dome. She also has been a contractor for the Super Bowl, LPGA, NBA All-Star and MLB All-Star Games. Recently, she opened her own special events company, Chi2 Events, and is enjoying being as her own boss.

N'dieye Gray is a mother of twin girls. She was a scholarship recipient in 1992. She attended the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore, and went on to obtain a Master's degree in film-making at Georgia State University. She is now working at Public Broadcasting Station (PBS) in Atlanta.

Miya Gray, sister of 1992 recipient N'dieye Gray, was a 1993 scholarship recipient. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She received her Master's degree from Stanford University in Engineering Economic Systems and Operations Research. Since college she has worked as a Management Consultant, a Technology Consultant, and currently, as an Information Services Lead for software implementation at a health care organization.

David Read is married and living in Walnut Creek, California. He is a 1993 scholarship recipient. David works for Davis Instruments, a company that makes high-tech instruments. David functions as the liaison between the marketing and technology departments.

Abari Ward is a 1999 scholarship recipient. He went to the University of Colorado at Boulder and transferred to Hunter College in New York. He majored in Computer Science and Acting. After school, he remained in New York where he was the voice in the Mellow Yellow ad. He spent 6 months in Italy where he modeled for Marc Esko. He returned to NY where he will open a bar/lounge.

Please be generous with your donations so that other students will get the same kind of chance as these students had. Checks should be sent to SW Scholarship Committee, POB 70481, Washington, DC 20024.

## Southwest Community Calendar MONTHLY

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21** President's Day Holiday

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28** SWNA Public Meeting, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3rd & M St., SW, 7:30 pm

**TUESDAY, MARCH 1** Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), of the Metropolitan Police, First District, 415 4th Street, SW., 7 pm

**MONDAY, MARCH 7** SW Kiwanis Club, Speech about Tuskegee Airmen, Christ United Methodist Church, 4th & I Street, enter at the side entrance on I, 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9** AARP, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3rd & M St. S.W. noon

**FRIDAY, MARCH 11** Arena Stage \$10 Night "The Goat or Who is Sylvia" 7:30 pm

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14** ANC Meeting, at 65 I St., SW, 7:00 pm

**MONDAY, MARCH 21** SWNA Public Meeting St. Matthew's Lutheran Church 7:30 pm

**THURSDAY, MAR. 24** NARFE SW Branch Library, Wesley Pl & K St. S.W. 12:30 pm

## WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

**S.W. CITIZENS PATROL** with Officer Kenny Daniels every Tues. at 7 pm - meet at 4th & M St. S.W., next to Waterfront Front, Metro elevator at 4th & M St. SW.

**KOMEN TOASTMASTERS** - First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.

**FIL-AM TOASTMASTERS** - Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm

**SCHOOL ST. TOASTMASTERS** - Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 488 - noon.

**COLLECTOR'S CLUB STAMPS** - First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye St. S.W., 7 pm (202)-291-6229.

**S.W. KIWANIS** - First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm

**NEW SOUTHWEST TOASTMASTERS** - Every Wed. GSA Bldg - 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

*Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed. March 2*



*Two new members of ANC6D attended their first meeting of the commission on Jan. 10. They are David Sobelson, left, and Max Skolnik*



Potomac Place Apartments on 4th St. S.W. between I (Eye) St. S.W. and G St. S.W. is the location of a new beauty salon and barber shop on the lower level.

## Beauty Salon, Barber Shop Open

A new barber shop and beauty parlor, Janice's and Reggie Joyner are in operation on the lower level at Potomac Place, 800 4th St. S.W.

They are located near the North elevator on the lower level of Potomac Place,

Both are open to the public six days a week from 10 am to 6 pm.



The new Marriott Residence Inn Capitol

## Marriott Residence Inn Opens In SW

A new Marriott hotel with 233 suites with full kitchens has opened at 333 E St. S.W. across from the NASA building and a block from the Federal Center SW METRO station - one stop from the House Office Buildings at Capitol South.

As a "residence inn" it provides free hot buffet breakfast daily and a "complimentary evening social Monday through Thursday" for renters, but does not have a public restaurant. Guests have on-site underground garage parking, for a fee.

Many suites on the upper floors have views of the Capitol dome or the Washington Monument. Rates range from \$149 to \$300 a day.

Other amenities include free high speed internet access, valet and self-service laundry, gift shop, indoor pool and whirlpool. Pets are welcome for an additional fee.

Construction of the inn was financed by four American Indian governments in conjunction with The Donohoe Companies and other Washington, D.C. investors. American Indians in town on tribal business are given a special rate. The inn is three blocks from the new National Museum of the American Indian.

## "Mahalia" at Westminster

By Thelma Jones

Come and hear the music of the world's most renowned gospel singer and be captured by the essence of "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson."

The concert is a benefit for the Westminster Church Building Fund and will be followed by a reception. Advance tickets are \$20; at the door \$25. Sponsorships are available at \$100 (2 tickets and name printed in program).

Tickets are available by calling (202) 488-8120 or (202) 484-7700. Sunday, February 20, 3 pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 Eye Street, SW.

As a child growing up in North Carolina, I remember our Sunday family ritual

of enjoying the sounds of Mahalia Jackson before Sunday school and after church.

A part of my childhood will be relived as I enjoy "A Tribute to Mahalia Jackson." Vocalist Lavenia Nesmith and the creative contributions of Mel Griggs bring Mahalia to life in a musical drama in dialogue and song.

"A Tribute" is the dramatized collaboration between Nesmith and scriptwriter BeBe Ross Coker.

This powerful and heart warming performance embraces the listening audience and brings into presence such memorable songs of praise as "Move on Up a Little Higher," "Just a Little While," "Soon I Will Be Done" and many other tunes that my family and I enjoy immensely.

**Brace yourself for a provocative and ground-breaking parable of love's shattering peculiarities!**

**the goat or who is sylvia?**  
by Edward Albee  
directed by Wendy C. Goldberg  
previews start March 4

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artistic director

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# S.W.N.A.

cont'd from Page 1

classes at Southeastern University in SW. She sits on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Early Childhood and is a member of the Mayor's Neighborhood Action Team. She lives in Harbour Square.

## Candidate for Vice President

**Richard Westbrook**

## Candidate for Secretary

**Margaret (Meg) Brinckman** has been a SW resident since 1992. She was a SWNA District 3 Representative from 2002-2003 and a member of the Waterside Mall/Waterfront Task Force. Margaret serves on several Harbour Square committees and served two years as President. She is also active with the 4th St. Neighborhood Group.

## Treasurer

**Katy Dietrich**

Southwest resident for over 15 years.  
Bookkeeper for *Southwester* newspaper.  
Business leader in Washington hospitality industry for over 25 years.  
National Christmas Tree Pageant of Peace Advisory committee 7 years.  
American Red Cross Aphaeresis volunteer.  
Southwest is no longer the "forgotten quadrant;" I want to be part of its future.

**Ellen Winship**, present Treasurer. Carrollsburg Condominium, 1983-present.

Professional Experience: Senior Accountant and financial policy, OPM; formerly Director, Financial Management, Bureau of Export Administration. Non-profit: Vice President, Carrollsburg Board of Directors; Past Treasurer, Association of American Foreign Service Women

## CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1

**Lida Churchill** Upon retirement in 2004, I became active in Southwest activities and District activities. I was elected to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Board in 2004. I have been active on the History Task Force and have worked for all renters in Southwest Washington, including the Waterside Towers Residents Association (WTRA).

**Perry Klein**, present Vice-President, has been a resident of Town Square Towers Condominium, 700 Seventh Street since 1971. He is part of the team that developed and maintains SWNA's Internet Web site, [www.swdc.org](http://www.swdc.org) and is responsible for its content. He served as a District One representative for six years.

## CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 2

**Tom Heinemann** has served as a SWNA board member representing District 2 for the past year and has played an active role in planning community meetings. Tom is a resident of Capital Park II, and currently works for the National Association of Realtors.

**Ron McBee** wants to make sure our neighborhood, and all of the Southwest Community, has a good seat at the table

so that we can influence the decisions that we have to live with, like the community development, zoning and preservation, etc. I support and want a "people plan" so no one or no one group is left unprotected or harmed.

## CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 3

**William J. "Bill" Brawner** is a native Washingtonian, former District 3 Representative, current President of the Board of Directors of St. James Mutual Homes, Inc., and former President & Treasurer, Northwest Cooperative Homes. He previously volunteered for The Southwester, and is a former Business & Theater Manager of the College of Fine Arts, Howard University. His mission is building and binding a safe community.

**Sherry L. Davis**, a longterm resident of Southwest, currently represents District 3 on the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA) Board. She is a practicing attorney, an active member of Christ United Methodist Church in Southwest, and a member of the Florida and District of Columbia Bar Associations and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

## CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 4

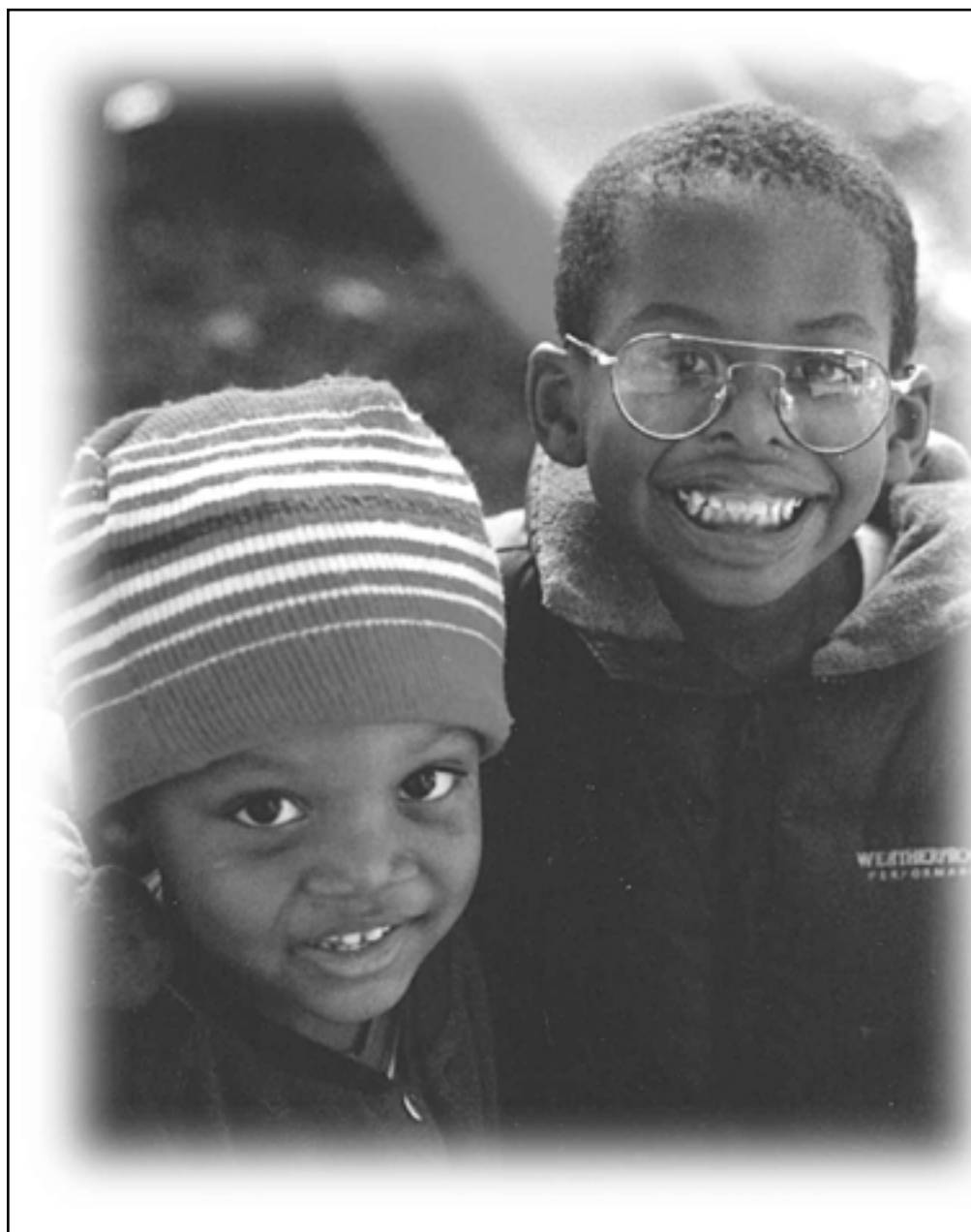
**Herb Holmes** Native born to Southwest. Actively involved with the Cavaliers Athletic Association since early childhood. Attended North Carolina Central University, Durham, NC. Have seen many changes in the community, especially during Urban Renewal. Served on SWNA Board in the 90s and was actively involved with the Youth Activities Task Force and

The Southwester. Currently a member of the Scholarship Committee.

**Melvin King** Southwest resident for over six years residing on Carrollsburg Place. Currently works for GlobaleMed, a pharmaceutical company in Alexandria, VA. A.S. Degrees in Accounting and Marketing and B.A. in Marketing from Johnson & Wales University, Providence, RI. Member of Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship, Inc, Griffin Chapter. I believe the Southwest community will gain a lot from my serving as a representative.

**Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert** is a SW born native of the District. A life long member of Second Baptist Church, a product of the District Public Schools System, a degreed studio artist, former teacher, and a government retiree after 20 years of service. I believe in and support inclusionary planning for our community. Currently serving as District 4 Representative.

**Kevin Thomas** is a current District 4 Representative and resident of Carrollsburg Place, SW. Lieutenant, US Navy. He is a 1998 graduate of US Naval Academy. Completed flight school and earned gold wings. Served several years flying missions throughout the world. Military career went from the cockpit to a tour of duty in DC. Interested in helping his neighborhood grow while maintaining its historical perspective. Also ready to help make our community a place for which we can all be proud.



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Applications received after March 31 will be placed on a waiting list.

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## Upcoming Open Houses/Info Sessions

- Thurs. Feb. 24, 9:00 a.m.
- Sat. March 5, 10:30 a.m.
- Tues. March 15, 9:00 a.m.
- Weds. March 23, 6:30 p.m.

\*680 I (Eye) Street, SW-Washington, DC 20024  
For more information please call 202.646.0500

\* Convenient to Metro bus (V7,V8, V9) and Metro Rail (L'Enfant & Waterfront).



# Design for National Children's Museum at L'Enfant Plaza



Representatives of The JBG Companies showed ANC6D commissioners their concept designs for new buildings planned for the L'Enfant Plaza Complex., including a plan for a new National Capital Children's Museum, which has vacated its home at 3rd St. and H St. N.E.

The new museum is scheduled to open in June 2008.



*A new 10 story office building will fill the open plaza including space for the National Capital Children's Museum. Two new buildings would occupy corners of the site. It will be designed by architects - Cesar Pelli & Associates.*



## Musicales at St. Dominic's Church

- Tuesday, March 15 - Michael White, organist
- Tuesday, April 19 - Tom Parker, organist

Immediately following the 12:10 PM Mass at St. Dominic's Church, 630 E Street, SW.

## OBITUARY

### Joseph Owen Curtis, 1915 - 2005

Joseph Owen Curtis was born March 7, 1915 in old Southwest Washington and died January 31, 2005. He retired from the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Army as a Major.

He served in the U.S. Army in World War II, where he served as First Lieutenant - Special Services Officer, Army Corps of Engineers - in France, the European Theatre and Greenland.

He ultimately earned the rank of Major in the United States Army.

He was an avid reader, historian and professional photographer. His remarkable photos of old Southwest D.C. are irreplaceable; in fact, much of the Joseph Owen Curtis photographic collection, ca. 1910 - 1989, was copyrighted, placed at the U.S. Library of Congress, and donated to the District of Columbia Southwest Library -- where they are still on public display. He was actively involved in many social organizations. In addition to a full professional life, Joseph Curtis donated to many charitable and educational organizations throughout the Washington Metropolitan Area.



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# Corcoran School of Art in Southwest

By Mark Clark

The sale of the Randall School building at 65 I Street, SW to the Corcoran Gallery of Art for 6.2 million dollars has stirred the hopes of Southwest residents and ignited a storm of controversy from political activists and advocates for the homeless.

Since the December 21, 2004 approval of the sale by the 12 to 1 vote of the DC City Council, a group called the DC Coalition for the Homeless has broken into the school gymnasium to stage protests on three occasions. They have also disrupted council meetings and have held sit-in demonstrations on ledges on the Wilson Building. A separate group of political activists, citing the sale as just one of their motivations, has called for the recall of Ward Six Council member Sharon Ambrose, and has launched a petition drive to achieve that goal.

Some Southwest residents living near the school expressed relief at the transfer of the Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter to the grounds of St. Elizabeth's hospital, where they say that the City is better able to address some of the root causes of homelessness: addiction and mental illness. These residents also cite a decrease in petty crime and

panhandling in the neighborhood.

According to Margaret Bergen, Chief Communications officer for the Corcoran Gallery, the city has promised to relocate the current tenants of Randall by June 2005, whereupon they will go to settlement on the sale. At that point, the Corcoran will begin assessing the condition of the structure and start the process of restoring and rehabilitating the building to reflect its new role as a multi-faceted art center.

Bergen said "In addition to providing studio space for the college, the site will serve as a permanent home for many of the Corcoran's community and art education programs and will contain private studios and exhibition spaces for local working artists. We look forward to being a great neighbor and a community hub in Southwest." She also expressed the hope that the avant-garde Washington Project for the Arts "will transition with us to Randall. We hope to be a vibrant artistic center."

Artists who are currently occupying studios in the building (which was previously known as the Millennium Art Center) are cautiously optimistic about the possibility of returning after renovations are complete. Richard Dana, a surrealist painter

currently exhibiting at Fraser Gallery in Bethesda, and informal leader of the remaining artists said that "the Corcoran is legally obligated to offer us studio space when the construction is complete. The rental price might be higher than it currently is." Dana "expressed support for Corcoran director David Levy's ambitious plan to improve facilities and turn the building into a multi-faceted art center." After a meeting with Corcoran officials, Dana cited the fact that "the Corcoran is enthusiastic about 'Art Enables' remaining in the building." 'Art Enables' is an education center where developmentally disabled adults can learn living skills while producing art for sale to the community.

Several of the artists with studios in the building are upbeat about the Corcoran taking over the building with the resources to manage and maintain it. Others, concerned about possible rent increases, are keeping their options open. With studios in Washington disappearing due to loft conversion in the 14th Street, NW Corridor, new construction downtown, and rising real estate costs throughout the District, many local artists are leaving the city.

# Southwest Neighbors

By Thelma Jones & Carole Early

This column salutes achievements by people who make this a real neighborhood. Tell them that you read about them in *The Southwester*.

Reginald "Reggie" Joyner, a former Southwest resident, has returned to fill a niche in the community as a barber. Located at Potomac Place, 800 4th St. SW, and sharing space with owner and stylist Janice Hillard, Reggie is not just your everyday barber. He completed barber training, became licensed, passed an exam and became a master barber.

Reggie has now realized two of his dreams -- achieving the level of master barber and becoming an entrepreneur. As a master barber, Reggie is able to supervise and mentor an apprentice and

give something back by sharing his knowledge of the trade. Specializing in all types of haircuts and styles, appointments can be made by calling Reggie at (202) 554-2295 or (202) 246-1394. If you are looking for a master barber, just call Reggie and tell him that you read about him in *The Southwester*.

Desney Butler has lived in Southwest for 29 years. You might not know her name, but you do know her as the woman who is often seen ushering a group of kids all over the area.

She has been in the Child Care Business for over twenty years. She operated the Amidon Before & After Care program from Sept. 1983 - June 1993. From 1993 - 1995, she had her Child Care located at Southeastern University and at Westminster Church for the next two years.

She operated her business from her home from 1997 until the spring of 2004. She has been in the

child care business so long that some of her former students have graduated college and come by to say "hello."

Congratulations to Southwest resident and Safe Sitter Instructor Anita Sands Nunez on her recent engagement to James Smith, Jr. The two have been friends since attending Wilson Senior High School in the late 1980s. They are planning a wedding on November 26, 2005 in Washington, DC.

Anita is an online service manager at the National Court Reporters Association in Vienna, VA, and has her own graphic art and website business. She is also an active member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Tau Delta Zeta Chapter.

James is a technician at Net 100 in Chantilly, VA. Anita is the youngest sister of Benjamin Sands, Jr., Southwest's first scholarship recipient.

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## Your Real Estate Professional

### Bea B. Paget

Serving DC, the SW Waterfront since 1986  
Real Estate Update

The Southwest Waterfront properties are still very much in DEMAND,  
Townhouses, apartments, condos, coops or Fee Simple properties

Here are some of the townhouses and other properties I have listed and sold since July, 2004...

1224 4 <sup>th</sup> St. SW	4br 3ba Pkg. (2600 SF)	Sold @	\$515,000
262 "M" St. SW	2br 2.5ba Pkg. (1800 SF)	Sold @	\$515,000
333 "M" St. SW	2br 1.5ba (N/P) (1400 SF)	Sold @	\$325,000
262 "M" St. SW	4br 3ba Pkg. (2600 SF)	Sold @	\$554,000
1419 Carrollsburg Pl. SW	2br 1.5ba w/pkg.	Sold @	\$320,000
1250 4 <sup>th</sup> St. SW	W305 1br1ba N/P (570 SF)	Sold @	\$185,000
1250 4 <sup>th</sup> St. SW	W107 1br1ba Pkg. (700 SF)	Sold @	\$235,000
1250 4 <sup>th</sup> St. SW	W709 1br1ba Pkg. (700 SF)	Sold @	\$230,000
240 "M" St. SW	E701 2br 1.5ba Pkg(1200SF)	Sold @	\$289,000

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If you are thinking of selling your property, please call me to discuss your property...Apartment or Townhouse...Call today 202-554-5317

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# 25 Years Ago in Southwest

By Maurice Boyd

- Norwegian and Danish "tall ships" docked at the Old Wilson Line pier in May, 1980
- Arena Stage presented Pat Carroll in a one woman show "Gertrude Stein, etc." in the Kreeger Theater in October, 1980.
- DC Schools Superintendant Vincent Reed spoke to the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, SWNA in November. He indicated that progress would be made in local schools.



# A Coming Together

By Thelma Jones

While enjoying the modern Asian cuisine and seafood at Jenny's, Henry and Jenny Liu discussed the Chinese languages Mandarin and Cantonese with their new friend, Larry La while Thelma Jones listened. They each talked about their own journey to Washington from their native lands, and the challenges they face in trying to achieve the American dream while maintaining a sense of their own heritage.

The four instantly found a connection in their reverence for values, traditions, business aspirations and the passion to help others. Henry and Jenny came to Washington, DC from Taiwan in the early 1970s; Larry, from Viet Nam via Tennessee in 1979, arriving in the DC area 1988, and Thelma, from a farm in Snow Hill, NC in 1972.

Jones took pride in sharing Jenny and Henry's long-standing community involvement with Larry, including, among others, their sponsoring a #4 Boys and Girls Club to Taiwan in the 1990s and their regular advertisements in The Southwester.

She also took pride in sharing with Jenny and Henry about Larry's active support of the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE, pronounced nifty) and his broad involvement in the Asian community. Jones met Larry last summer through Martha Pattillo Siv, a mutual friend and

World Bank colleague.

Martha felt that Larry's role as an entrepreneur and his journey to this country as a refugee was an inspiring story worth sharing, especially to NFTE's youth throughout the Washington DC Metro Area. Jones represents the World Bank on NFTE's board, including helping to organize the NFTE program at Jefferson JHS several years ago, and ensuring that the students have the resources

needed for the program.

The meeting of the minds and appetites reminded the four that even though they may be different in many ways, they share similarities that when combined can make a difference. At Larry's request, Jones is organizing a visit with Jenny and Henry to Meiwah (New Hampshire Avenue). She is confident that they will enjoy it just as she has on previous visits.



From left to right Jenny and Henry Liu with Thelma Jones and Larry La

## TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

**Guest Speaker:**  
**Mr. Ira James O'Neal, Jr.**  
**Original Tuskegee Airmen**

Mr. Ira James O'Neal, Jr. was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps July 7, 1942. Mr. O'Neal served 30 years in the United States Army Air Corps and the United States Air Force. He served in Europe, Asia, and the United States. Mr. O'Neal's positions while in the service were: First Sergeant, Squad Commander, Finance Officer, Physical Fitness Officer, Special Service Superintendent and Security NCO and Security Officer. Mr. O'Neal retired from the military on October 1, 1972.

Mr. O'Neal will discuss the adversities and limited opportunities African Americans have faced in the U.S. military throughout the history of the United States. He will speak about the Army Air Corp's program to train African Americans to fly and maintain combat aircraft. He will also address the "Tuskegee Experiment." Come and hear him at the SW Kiwanis Club on March 7 at 6:30 pm at Christ United Methodist Church, 4th and I Streets, SW. Entrance is on the I Street.

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## Southeastern University's Events

The Center for Entrepreneurship has released its February 2005 calendar of seminars and business clinics. To register, contact Kenneth White at [kwhite@admin.seu.edu](mailto:kwhite@admin.seu.edu) or 202-478-8249.

### BUSINESS CLINICS

Please note: materials will be completed in-class by participants.

**February 23, 2005**  
**6-9:30pm** Fee \$50  
**SBA 8a Certification Clinic**

In this clinic attendees will prepare a draft of their 8a application, with the assistance of an instructor.

**Location:** SEU, 501 I Street, SW

### SEMINARS

**February 24, 2005**  
**6-9pm** Fee \$25

**How to Read and Write a Lease**

This seminar will teach attendees how to read and write a lease and understand key terminology.

**Location:** SEU, 501 I Street, SW

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Westminster Presbyterian Church  
400 I Street SW. 484-7700. [www.westminsterdc.org](http://www.westminsterdc.org)  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Jazz Night in SW Fridays 6-9 p.m.  
Labyrinth Walks First and Third Wednesdays monthly 7-9 p.m.

# Syphax Village Opening/Closing



By Carole Early

*George Rothman, President of Manna, Inc. introduced speakers at a celebration at The Lofts of Syphax Village at Half St. SW and N St. S.W.*

It was an exciting day, especially for those of us who were living in the SW community when the discussion about Syphax School first started. It was an opening because the public was invited to view some of the condo loft units, and a closing because all of the units are sold. See the page 9 for the history of the original site. Manna, Inc was chosen to create Syphax Village, located at Half and N Streets, SW. Manna, Inc. serves low and moderate income families, assisting them to fulfill the dream of homeownership.

Manna constructed 28 townhouses and 13 condominium apartments on the grounds of the historic Syphax School in Southwest Washington.

One of the speakers, Councilmember, Sharon Ambrose, said it all when she said that it takes a village to raise a village. Over the years, so many people and organizations have been involved in Syphax Village and helped it along the way. George Rothman, the CEO and President of Manna mentioned the wonderful involvement of BB&T, Pepco, Citibank, Fannie Mae, DHCD, FHLBank, the Trust for Historic Preservation, Local Incentives Support Corporation (LISC), SWNA, DC Council and ANC, to name but a few. Representatives from many of these organizations spoke at the opening/closing celebration. In addition, Barbara Wade, Vice President of the James Creek Resident Council, spoke about the value of home ownership. James Creek houses are located across from the Syphax development.

The Syphax Building was built as a school for blacks in 1900. The original building has been designated as an historical landmark. The Plaque on the outside front wall explains the building's original use. Manna has made a wonderful and creative contribution to our neighborhood by improving and maintaining this structure while also providing affordable housing.

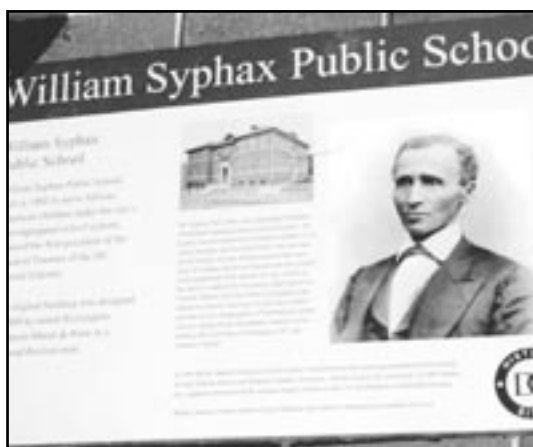
A twenty-minute DVD telling of the many elements of Manna's services was available at the gathering and can be ordered by calling Manna at 832-1845. Manna's services include a Homebuyers Club, Manna Mortgage Corp. (a non-profit lending company), Manna Community Development Corporation (an organization creating living wage jobs and small businesses), Enlarging Staffing Services (a temp agency), and a variety of staff including architects and counselors.



*Speakers at the Syphax Village affair included (left to right): Rev. Jim Dickerson, founder of Manna; George Rothman, President of Manna, Inc.; Perry Kline, v.p. of SWNA, Olive Akhigbe of Fannie Mae Foundation; Jay Green, D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development; Barbara Wade of the James Creek Resident Council; Lisa Burcham, D.C. Historic Preservation Office; Oramenta Newsome, LISC; Rip Howard, BB&T Bank; Ernest Skinner, Citibank.*



*Dick Westbrook, former ANC member, right, spoke with DC Councilmember Adrian Fenty at the Syphax Village dedication. Westbrook told of the decision to close Syphax Elementary School in the 1990s.*



*Town houses of Syphax Village were all sold as affordable housing. These face O St. S.W.*

*These town-homes of Syphax Village front on Half St. S.W. The three-story school building on the left has been converted to loft apartments.*



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## The History of Syphax School

The Syphax School, located on Half Street, SW, between N and O Streets, was built in 1902 as a school for "colored people."



Dr. Mark Weis, SWNA, VP

It was named for William Syphax who was the first African-American member of the Congressionally established Board of Trustees of Colored Schools of Washington and Georgetown.

By 1960, Syphax School had been declared surplus property. The question was — what to do with this property?

In June 1996, Dr. Marc Weis, Vice President of Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWANA), suggested having a design "charette." A charette is a work session led by architects, developers, landscape designers, and urban planners to explore various planning design alternatives with residents who live near the site of a proposed real estate development project.

The charette, organized by SWANA, was held in October 1969 at Syphax School. *The Southwester* carried a front-page story entitled "Design Charette Boosts Community Support for Redevelopment of Syphax School Site."

The event attracted more than 50 people — residents, developers, historic preservationists, and representatives from community centers, ANC 2-D, the Mayor's office, the DC Board of Education, and the Department of Housing and Community Development.

On the morning of the event, Dr. Beryl Rice, President of SWNA, welcomed the participants and gave a brief history of the project. There was a spirited group discussion that gave people the opportunity to express their concerns, ideas, and suggestions.

A variety of ideas emerged for potential uses of the site. The majority of those attending agreed that it did not want the following: fast food outlets, commercial activity, or "havens" for drug dealers. A majority supported the following: home-ownership, the preservation and rehabilitation of the original historic Syphax school building, safety and security, adequate lighting, and an environmental assessment of the barrel storage facility immediately east of the site.

Other highlights included a site tour, discussion groups and a presentation of drawings that depicted various planning and design alternatives. Carol Casperson, Executive Director of DC Habitat for Humanity, and other non-profit developers talked about their experience and approach to development. After some more discussion, the day was brought to a close by another presentation by the professional designers. Eventually, Manna, Inc. came on the scene, and the concept of Syphax Village was born.

## Southwest Heritage Trail draws the curious stroller



By Hugh Muir

Some have been walking our Southwest waterfront area for years. Some are lost tourists who made a wrong turn. Some are vendors making a delivery. Others are first-time visitors drawn by curiosity to the water. All are getting a new look at our neighborhood by stopping at the poster-size (3 feet x 4 feet) illustrated signs that make up the Southwest Heritage Trail, which opened officially on January 15.

The kickoff ceremony was a coffee-and-sweet-bun gathering on board the Odyssey tour boat docked at the foot of 6th Street, hosted by Cultural Tourism DC and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly. More than 100 people turned out for the reception, speeches, and unveiling of the nearby sign for stop #11. That poster, appropriately, commemorates the numerous sailing vessels, steamers, fishing boats, and tourist craft that have sailed from docks in the area for more than 150 years.

The trail is marked by 17 sturdy signs in metal frames on ornate posts bolted firmly to the sidewalk. It starts with #1 at the Metro stop at 4th and M streets, looping up 6th St. and then 4th Street to G Street and turning west to Banneker Circle before sloping down to the waterfront and returning along the Washington Channel to Fort McNair. The trail then cuts east to 3rd St., then back along P Street to 4th and finally north two blocks to end at marker #17 at 4th and N streets. The distance is 2.3 miles and, with time to stop and savor each poster site, takes about 90 minutes to walk. Trail booklets will be available at local sites.

The January ceremony's first speaker was Kathryn S. Smith, executive director of Cultural Tourism DC, which designed, financed and built the trail. "We would like to salute the tenacity of your neighborhood," she said, "in helping to create this heritage trail." She saluted Margaret Feldman, chair of the History Task Force of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, who led in collecting the historical material that appears on the signs. "We're delighted with this wonderful trail," Mrs. Feldman said, "and I do hope you all will walk it."

Mrs. Smith said that the trail — one of four opened so far in Washington — is "not for your usual tourist," but for people who are interested in the social and cultural history of our city, and who, it is hoped, will over the years contribute to the neighborhood's economy. "The old Southwest is gone," lost in the vast urban renewal of the 1950s, Mrs. Smith said. "But the new community now has traditions of its own."



Speakers at the S.W. Heritage Trail celebration aboard The Odyssey.

At left, Councilmember Sharon Ambrose, and D.C. Department of Transportation Director Dan Tangherlini, two of the officials at the unveiling on the S.W. waterfront of one of the seventeen posters of the new S.W. Heritage Trail.

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## Advanced Placement Courses Lead To College

High school students succeeding in college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses are likely to do well in college, according to a new report by the College Board, which administers the AP program.

Wilson High School, with 175 students from Southwest (zip code 20024), encourages students to take AP courses. Wilson and other public schools in D.C. had 535 students scoring 3, 4 or 5 out of a possible 5 on AP exams in 2004, an increase from 1996.

## Attention SW Residents: Your input is needed KING GREENLEAF RECREATION CENTER PROGRAM SURVEY

Please circle your choices for programs which you want. The Center will open in the middle of February and the staff needs your input.

When finished with the survey, cut and return in an envelope to Mr. Ellis, Director of King Greenleaf Recreation Center, YATF, P.O. Box 70792, Washington, D.C. 20024. or email your suggestions to Marcus.Ellis@dc.gov.

The mission of the Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide quality, customer-focused leisure and recreational services. Below is a questionnaire which asks what programs you would like to see offered at the new Center.

Adult programs will be offered from 10 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday through June. Some adult programs may also be held at later hours. Fees will vary according to activity.

### ADULT Programs suggested:

**Educational enrichment:** Computer lab, literacy, college and career resource center, photography, environmental studies, nutrition, creative writing, poetry,

**Sports:** Tennis, bowling, croquet, volley ball, pool, karate or tae kwon do.

**Fitness:** Aerobics, water aerobics, walking, yoga, swimming, tai chi, dance

**Social Enrichment:** trips to movies, theatre, museums; card games, theatre and musical productions, book clubs

**Arts and Crafts:** drawing, painting, ceramics, quilting, macramé, knitting, sewing, needlepoint

**Community Outreach:** Mentoring, tutoring, visiting new residents,

### CHILDREN (ages 6-12) and ADOLESCENTS (ages 13-17)

There is a \$3 yearly fee to participate in the sports.

**Educational enrichment:** Homework tutorials, computers, book club, creative writing, play acting.

**Sports:** Football, soccer, basketball, swimming, bowling, cheerleading, volleyball, tennis.

**Fitness:** Youth aerobics, health and wellness workshops, tae kwon do, karate.

**Social enrichment:** Trips to games, theatres, museums, movies, cultural events and monuments, community service projects

**Arts and Crafts:** drawing, painting, needlework.

**Other:** Cooking, nutrition, dance, board and card games, story time, puppetry

Please circle the activities you would like; ADD any you wish to have included.

The Center will open in February, your prompt response is appreciated.

## KIDS FRONT...

## Should Wilson High Become A Public Charter School?

Committee meetings are being held by parents at Wilson High to learn the advantages and disadvantages of converting to a public charter school. Although charter schools do not receive the same free services from the D.C. Public School System, they are given greater discretionary funding - per pupil - than traditional public schools and have more leeway in curriculum, operation, and maintenance.

Parents at the January PTA meeting were asked to volunteer for committees on academic programs and support for learning/visioning process, governance and management, finance, facilities, human resources/employee impact, impact on enrollment, school system and city.

Woodrow Wilson High School is located at Albemarle and 40th Streets, N. W. Most students from Southwest take the red line METRO to the nearby Tenleytown station.

### Wilson High PTA Meets in SW

With 175 of its 1500 students living in Southwest, Wilson High School brought its February monthly Parent-Teacher-Student Association meeting to Jefferson Jr. High on 7th and H St. S.W



Marcus Ellis, director, in front of Recreation Center at Canal and N Street, SW.



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## Jamal Jones

By Thelma Jones

Jamal Jones is a 2001 and 2002 scholarship recipient. After studying computer sciences at UDC and Guilford Technical Community College in Greensboro, NC, he decided to join the workforce.

In August 2004, he joined the Hyatt Hotel in Arlington, VA and completed their intensive guest service training program.

Having recently completed his 90-day probationary period, he is now a full-time front desk agent. He enjoys the advantage of being exposed to different departments and duties, including serving as a PBX operator and guest service). His next training will be in reservations, sales and catering.

Understanding that knowledge is power and that "a mind is a terrible thing to waste" Jamal looks forward to learning and mastering all aspects of guest service as he plans a career with Hyatt.

Having spent ten years in scouting, including achieving the rank of Eagle, Jamal understands the value of service and being responsible.

He now believes that his scouting experience and volunteering in the local community along with his mother Thelma Jones has helped him to deal more effectively and professionally with a diverse audience.

With a supportive leadership team, good mentors and supervisors, he has his eye on one day becoming a Hyatt general manager. At the moment, he'd like to take advantage of his many employee benefits, including tuition reimbursement, so that he can complete his degree and then focus more on greater responsibilities at Hyatt.

Jamal also looks forward to the opportunity of giving back and sharing lessons learned to his alma maters, namely Amidon Elementary and Jefferson JHS of which he has fond memories.

# Local Easter/Passover Services

The following churches responded to our request for Easter, Church related/Passover information:

### Westminster Presbyterian Church 4th and I St., SW, 202-484-7700

- Wednesday, March 2 & 16, Labyrinth Walk, 7:00-9:00
- Thursday, March 24, Communion Service 7:30
- Friday, March 25 - Good Friday Jazz, Davie Yarborough
- Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday, 11:00

### Second Union Baptist 1107 Delaware Ave, SW 202-484-7012

Friday March 25 - service at 7:30 pm,  
Sunday March 27 Sunrise Service, 7:00 am, Easter Service 11:00 am

### Saint Dominic Catholic Church 630 E Street, SW

#### Holy Week 2004

- Sunday, March 20 - Passion (Palm) Sunday
- Saturday 5:15 PM Mass with Simple Entrance

- Sunday 8:00 AM Mass with Simple Entrance
- 10:45 AM Mass with Solemn Entrance
- 12:15 PM Spanish Mass with Simple Entrance

#### Monday, March 21

- 8:00 AM Mass
- 12:10 PM Mass
- 7:30 PM Mass with Anointing of the Sick

#### Tuesday And Wednesday - March 22 And March 23

- 8:00 AM Mass
- 12:10 PM Mass
- 7:30 PM Mass of the Lord's Supper

#### Friday, March 25 - Good Friday

- 12:15 PM Stations of the Cross
- 3:00 PM Celebration of the Lord's Passion

#### Saturday, March 26 - Holy Saturday

- 9:00 AM Tenebrae: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer
- 7:30 PM Great Vigil of Easter with service of Light

#### Sunday, March 27 - Easter Sunday

- 8:00 AM Mass at Dawn
- 10:45 AM Festive Mass of Easter
- 12:15 AM Mass in Spanish

#### Sacrament Of Reconciliation

- Monday - Friday - 11:55 AM
- Saturday - 11:55 AM, 4:30 PM-5:00 PM

Note: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available on Holy Thursday and Good Friday in the Priory Chapel. Please enter from E Street directly across. From the entrance to the Priory.

### Christ United Methodist 4th and I Streets SW 202-554-9117

- 13 - 11 am: Men's Day service
- 19 - 9-11 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- 20 - Palm Sunday Choir Special Music
- 24 - 7 pm - Holy Thursday Services with Communion

#### The Capitol Hill Havurah

Passover runs from April 23 - May 1. Will hold its annual community seder on the second night of Passover which will be Sunday, April 24th. The Shabbat service in April will take place on Friday, April 15th at Christ Our Shepherd Church, 801 North Carolina Ave. (The service will begin at 7 PM.) Join with us as we welcome Shabbat and following that, share in a pot luck supper. Please consider bringing a main dish to share with others. For more information, see website [www.hillhavurah.org](http://www.hillhavurah.org) or email [info@hillhavurah.org](mailto:info@hillhavurah.org).

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Addresses and phone numbers of D.C. Council Members representing areas in Southwest and Capitol Hill are as follows:

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202-724-8032 lcropp@dccouncil.us

**Executive Assistant Stephanie Reich**  
724-9700 sreich@dccouncil.us  
**Committee Clerk Christopher Murray**  
724-8196

**Councilmember Carol Schwartz (At Large)**  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Room 404  
Washington, D.C. 20004  
202-724-8105 schwartz@dccouncil.us

**Executive Assistant John Abbot**  
**Committee Clerk Adam Maier** 202-724-8170

**Councilmember David A. Catania (At Large)**  
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**Executive Assistant Linda Bumbalo**  
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